

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 08131 151618Z

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 NEA-14 IO-14 ISO-00 DPW-01 ACDA-19 MC-02

OIC-04 DLOS-07 COA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 /202 W

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R 151550Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8995

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 8131

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, PFOR, ICRC, VN, VS, LE

SUBJECT: ICRC CONFERENCE ON WEAPONS

REF: A. STAE 145886; B. BEIRUT 7147

SUMMARY: RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL IN LEBANESE FOREIGN MINISTRY INFORMED US JULY 15 THAT GOL WILL FORWARD RESPONSE TO MAY 17 ICRC QUERY END OF THIS WEEK. ACCORDING TO HIM, GOL WILL IN EFFECT VOTE AGAINST FURTHER CONSIDERATION PRG PARTICIPATION BY TAKING STRONG POSITION AGAINST ICRC PROPRIETY IN REOPENING ISSUE ON WHICH PLENARY SESSION OF DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE TOOK LEGALLY BINDING DECISION. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING RECEIPT REFTEL A, EMBOFF CALLED JULY 15 ON IBRAHIM KHARMA (SEE REFTEL B) OF MFA. IN COURSE GENERAL CONVERSATION, EMBOFF ASKED KHARMA RE STAGE OF PREPARATION OF GOL RESPONSE DUE JULY 31.

2. KHARMA, WHO HEADED GOL DEL TO DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE, SAID
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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 08131 151618Z

HE IN PROCESS DRAFTING FINAL NOTE FOR TRANSMISSION TO GENEVA. HE

SAID HE HAS DISCUSSED SUBJECT WITH ACTING SECGEN OF MFA WHO ENDORSES LINE KHARMA PLANS TAKE IN GOL REPLY. KHARMA SAID HE WISHED CHECK CONTENTS WITH KHALIL HADDAD, MFA DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONAL AFFAIR, BEFORE DISPATCHING NOTE TO GENEVA BY END THIS WEEK. HADDAD HAS BEEN REPRESENTING GOL AT LOS CONFERENCE IN CARACAS BUT IS DUE RETURN HERE IN NEXT TWO DAYS. WE DO NOT ANTICIPATE HE WILL LODGE OBJECTIONS TO PRESENT GOL POSITION.

3. GOL RESPONSE WILL NOT RPT NOT ADDRESS ITSELF TO SPECIFIC QUESTION PRG PARTICIPATION, BUT WILL RATHER ADOPT LEGAL POSITION THAT QUESTION PARTICIPATION SETTLED IN DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE AND THAT IT EXTRA-LEGAL FOR PRG ISSUE TO BE RAISED AGAIN. GOL WILL ARGUE THAT ICRC AND SWISS GOVERNMENT ILL ADVISED RAISE QUESTION FIRMLY SETTLED IN PLENARY SESSION OF DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE FOR SUBSEQUENT REVIEW OF GOVERNMENTS WHICH PARTICIPATED IN THAT SESSION AND THAT RESPONSES, WHATEVER THEIR NATURE, CANNOT HAVE EFFECT ON BINDING DECISION ALREADY TAKEN. GOL WILL, THEREFORE, REFUSE RECOGNIZE CURRENT "SHOW OF HANDS" AND STAND BY PREVIOUS DECISION OF DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE NOT RPT NOT TO ADMIT PRG.

4. KHARMA FURTHER STATED THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED MATTER WITH SWISS EMBASSY HERE IN BEIRUT AND INFORMED THEM OF GOL VIEW AND DISAPPROVAL OF REOPENING OF MATTER. HE SAID, PERHAPS EMBELLISHING HIS ROLE, THAT SWISS HADNOT PREVIOUSLY HEARD THIS POINT OF VIEW AND WERE "SURPRISED" AT GOL POSITION.

5. WE WILL MAKE EFFORT FOLLOW UP AS NECESSARY TO ENCOURAGE GOL TO MEET JULY 31 DEADLINE. AT PRESENT, HOWEVER, BELIEVE NOTE WILL BE SENT THROUGH LEBANESE MISSION GENEVA IN NEXT SEVERAL DAYS AND WILL HAVE EFFECT OF NEGATIVE VOTE RE PRG PARTICIPATION. WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING NOTIFICATION FROM ADDRESSEES WHEN GOL RESPONSE DELIVERED TO ICRC.

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